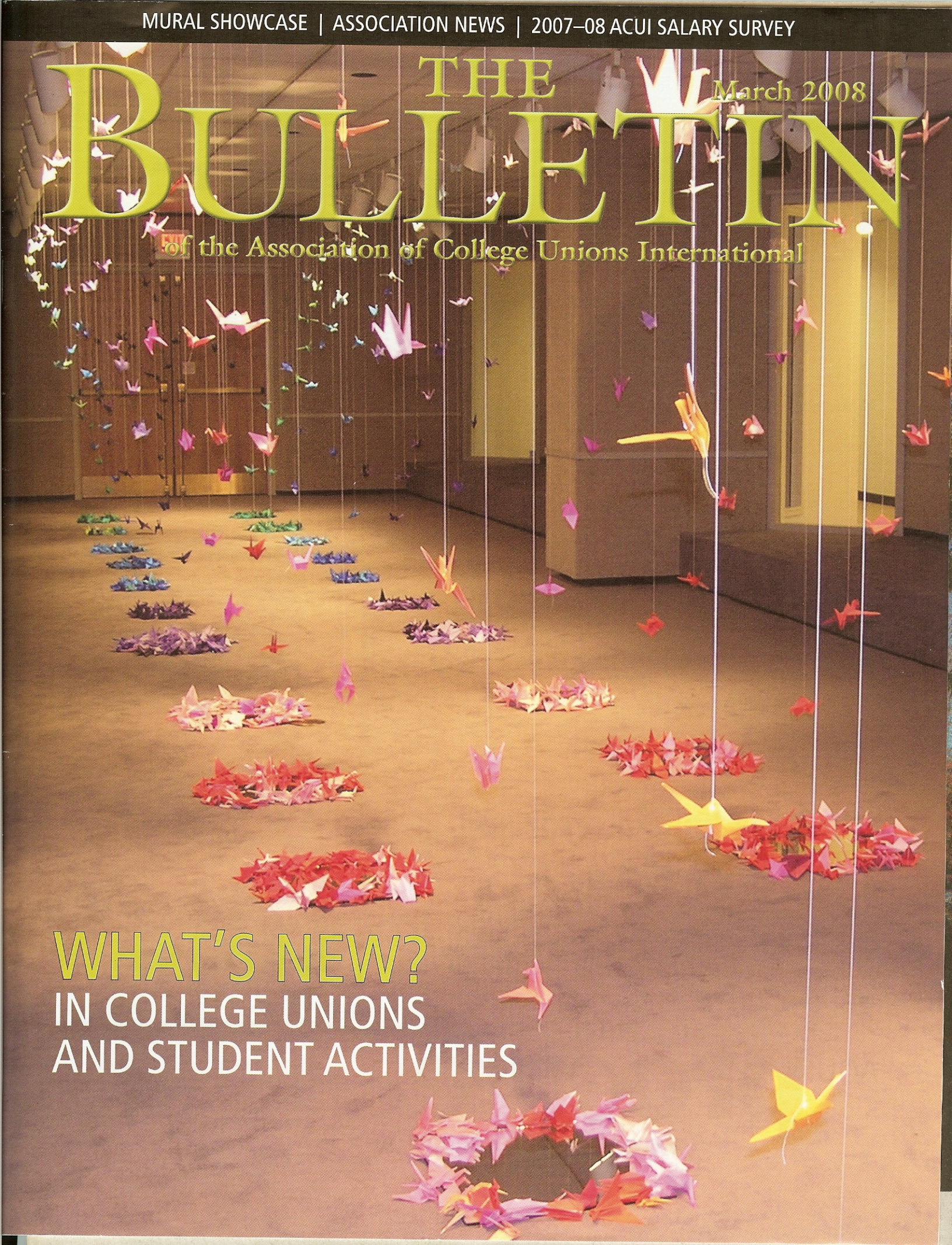


THE BULLETIN

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WHAT'S NEW?
IN COLLEGE UNIONS
AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES





Oregon State University Memorial Union

In 1997, Oregon State University's Memorial Union renovated a conference room with a Hispanic motif. As part of the dedication ceremony, the union commissioned a mural to be painted in the room. After reviewing his portfolio, students chose artist Hector Hernandez to create the mural.

"The artist presented a concept sketch to the students, who then gave him feedback," said Michael Henthorne, director. "He eventually created a smaller painting, which the students approved prior to creating the wall-sized final work."

Other design techniques were used to compliment the mural and increase the aesthetics of the room.

"Pre-Columbian symbols were also etched into the wet plaster. When dry, the plaster was pointed with three layers of glaze, some of it applied with the artist's hands," Henthorne said. "The resulting finish is the sort of discoloration one might find on the bottom of a copper pan—a mix of orange, blue, and green."

Next to the mural, called "La Raza," Hernandez's interpretative statement is hung in both English and Spanish.

"It says that the painting represents the university and the universal aspirations of the Hispanic, Latino, and Chicano group. The native cultures and ancient civilizations are represented on the left side, which are the origins of the journey.

"On the right side, the colonizing of the Northwest is represented in a depiction of European migration and modern symbols. The OSU Memorial Union in the painting symbolizes the place in the university where races and cultures of different groups converge.

"The center of the mural is held by two persons who represent the light of the ancient wisdom on the left, and the figure on the right creates a linkage to the present, and she points to a promising new horizon," Henthorne said.